

Thorndown Primary School - Parent Forum Minutes
Thursday 17th November 2016

Present: Heather Wood (Chair), Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Cathy Sweet, Sam Poole, Jenny Cowens, Louise Keeley, Toks Plumptre, Clare Lorman-Hall, Matt Sweeney

Apologies: Rob Jagger (Governor), Amanda Mumford, Russell Burgess, Nicola Batty

1. Introductions and minutes of previous meeting.

At the previous meeting (28th September) it was agreed that a Parent Rep for each year group would be selected, (Parent Reps are regular attendees of the Forum and are happy to raise issues on behalf of other parents at the forum if they cannot attend themselves). Alternatively, items can be raised directly with the Forum Chair (Heather Wood), by the suggestion box in the school entrance/lobby or via the Parent Forum email parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk

Year Reps

Foundation – Jenny Cowens

Year 1 – Pawel Kurkiewicz

Year 2 – Russell Burgess

Year 3- Pawel Kurkiewicz

Year 4 – Russell Burgess

Year 5 –

Year 6 -

Apologies that this information was not included on the September minutes.

2. Key topic – Let's get physical – sporting opportunities at Thorndown

A new curriculum for sport was introduced in 2014. In Key Stage 1 the focus is on developing fundamental skills. The focus in Key stage is to apply and develop a broader range of skills and to apply these to different games and sports.

Children have one indoor and one outdoor PE session per week. Foundation stage will start PE after Easter and will begin with dance. In addition all schools must provide swimming instruction which Thorndown provide in KS2.

To deliver the new curriculum the school has invested in the Cambridge scheme of PE which provides a comprehensive syllabus from Foundation stage upwards. The school also has links with **Hunts School Sports Partnership (HSSP)**. HSSP employ a team of physical education specialists who work with primary, special and secondary schools across Huntingdon, St Ives, Sawtry, St Neot's and Ramsey. They support schools to deliver high quality physical education and to meet the expected outcomes for the Sport Premium funding through a variety of activities, training and

one to one support. This includes providing training and coaching for class teachers if they are less confident about teaching a particular aspect of PE.

The ethos at Thorndown is to develop a positive attitude and enjoyment of Physical Education and a solid understanding of how exercise is vital to healthy lifestyles. The PE curriculum is designed to be inclusive and the school also provides a wide range of extra-curricular sporting activities.

When selecting children to represent the school at sport, Mr Sweeney prioritises attitude and sportsmanship. Where possible children with a range of abilities are encouraged to participate in tournaments although there are some competitions which are more competitive and this is also taken into consideration.

3. Future Meetings

There was mixed feedback as to whether the earlier time of 7.00 p.m. was more suitable for parents. One person sent apologies on the basis of the earlier time. Discussed whether a day time meeting would attract additional parents. However, the majority of regular attendees are unable to attend in the day due to work commitments. Future meetings will therefore continue to be held in the evening. The next meeting will be at the slightly earlier time of 7.00 p.m. again but may return to the later time of 7.30 p.m. thereafter depending on the impact on attendance.

Future Topics:

- **January** – Home/school communication and a review of the catering arrangements. Mrs Cook and Mrs Cooper will be invited to attend.

4. AOB

A query was raised via the Parent Forum email regarding the volume of correspondence. This will be discussed further at the next forum – HW will reply to the email and advise accordingly.

A query was raised about the arrangements for ordering and purchasing school uniform. This can also be discussed at the January meeting by Mrs Cooper.

5. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 19th January 2017, 7-8.30 pm, Dragonfly Classroom

All parents are members of the parent forum and are welcome to attend the meetings. If you cannot attend but wish to raise an issue you can email parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk post a note in the suggestion box in the lobby or raise it with your class/year representative.